

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image forming apparatus can apply a smoothing process to multiple value image data without generation of errors due to an unnecessary smoothing process. A template matching process unit determines whether or not the original image data is to be subjected to a smoothing process, and outputs the original image data together with a selection signal indicative of a result of the determination. A smoothing process unit selectively applies a smoothing process to the original image data based on the determination of the template matching process unit so as to output smoothed image data. A first control signal source outputs a first control signal representing whether or not application of the smoothing process is permitted on an individual image basis. A second control signal source outputs a second control signal representing whether or not application of the smoothing process is permitted on an individual pixel basis. A selector selects one of the original image data and the smoothed image data base on the selection signal, the first control signal and the second control signal supplied thereto.

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